Roman Connections

Trace how Roman ideas shaped later societies

AWH.C.7.10 "Explain the contribution of Roman civilization to law, literature, architecture, engineering, and technology, including the spread and influence of the Latin language."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one Roman contribution in each of these areas: law, literature, architecture, engineering or technology, and language. Number each underlined contribution where the passage explains its later influence.

A Walk Through a Roman City

1 Imagine arriving in a Roman provincial city around 100 CE. A stone road carries carts toward a busy market, while an aqueduct brings water from distant hills. Builders used carefully graded channels to keep water flowing downhill. Arches helped carry those channels across valleys, and Roman concrete made many large structures possible. Public fountains supplied water, though access varied by neighborhood and wealth. These works did more than decorate a city: they connected it to trade routes and supported daily life. Roads, arches, and water systems later offered models for builders far beyond the empire.

2 At the market, a disagreement over a sale might reach a Roman magistrate. Roman law developed rules for contracts, property, and legal procedure, but it did not protect everyone equally: enslaved people had few rights. Roman jurists wrote explanations of legal principles, and later lawmakers studied and adapted their work. Centuries after the western empire fell, Emperor Justinian in the eastern empire ordered a collection of Roman legal writings. That collection helped shape the civil law traditions of many modern countries. Its influence came through later study and revision, not through an unchanged set of ancient rules.

3 In the same city, Latin could be heard in government offices and read on public inscriptions. As Roman rule spread, soldiers, officials, settlers, and merchants carried Latin across much of western Europe. Local languages did not simply vanish, but spoken Latin gradually changed into languages such as Spanish and French. Writers also gave Latin a long literary life. Virgil's *Aeneid* linked Rome to a legendary Trojan past, and later poets drew on its epic style. Latin remained a language of scholarship for centuries, while words such as "justice" and "literature" entered English through later linguistic paths.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Roman legal writings influence later legal systems, and why would it be inaccurate to say those systems kept Roman law unchanged?

2. How did graded channels and arches work together to deliver water to a Roman city?

3. How did Virgil's *Aeneid* connect literature to Roman identity, and how did it influence later poets?

4. How did Latin spread beyond Rome? Explain two lasting effects of that spread named in the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Propose a display for a modern city museum called "Roman Connections." In one paragraph, link a water feature, a legal practice, and a language or literary example to show how Roman contributions traveled or changed over time; include one reason not to idealize Roman life.

ANSWER KEY

Roman Connections

HIGH SCHOOL · AWH.C.7.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one Roman contribution in each of these areas: law, literature, architecture, engineering or technology, and language. Number each underlined contribution where the passage explains its later influence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Roman legal writings influence later legal systems, and why would it be inaccurate to say those systems kept Roman law unchanged?	**Later lawmakers studied and adapted Roman jurists' work, including writings collected under Justinian. The civil law traditions they helped shape developed through later study and revision.**
2	How did graded channels and arches work together to deliver water to a Roman city?	**Graded channels kept water flowing downhill, and arches carried the channels across valleys.**
3	How did Virgil's *Aeneid* connect literature to Roman identity, and how did it influence later poets?	**It linked Rome to a legendary Trojan past, and later poets drew on its epic style.**
4	How did Latin spread beyond Rome? Explain two lasting effects of that spread named in the passage.	**Soldiers, officials, settlers, and merchants carried Latin across much of western Europe. Spoken Latin developed into languages such as Spanish and French, and Latin words entered English.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My display would place a model public fountain beside a contract and a wall of words. The fountain would show how Roman builders used graded channels and arches to bring water into cities, methods that later builders studied. The contract would explain that later lawmakers adapted Roman legal writings rather than preserving every ancient rule. The word wall would trace Latin into Spanish and French and show Latin words that entered English. A label would also note that access to water varied and that enslaved people had few legal rights.

Accept other accurate links between contributions and later influence supported by the passage. For Part 3, look for all three requested examples, an explanation of change or transmission, and a limitation of Roman life.